

****Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.***

****To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email R6Press@epa.gov.***

1 – Elected officials in Louisiana drag feet on new EPA report as news of chemical exposure trickles out to residents, Baton Rouge Advocate, 10/15/18

https://www.theadvocate.com/new-orleans/news/environment/article_14b3e03c-c818-11e8-bbfd-670a220f2e46.html

It's been 15 years since Marcia Llewellyn left Norco, a community located next to an industrial complex long known for its distinctive odor, and a place that many residents said had become too polluted to live in.

2 - EPA weighs allowing oil companies to pump wastewater into rivers, streams, Houston Chronicle, 10/15/18

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/energy/article/EPA-weighs-allowing-oil-companies-to-pump-13303676.php>

With concern growing that the underlying geology in the Permian Basin and other shale plays are reaching capacity for disposal wells, the Trump administration is examining whether to adjust decades-old federal clean water regulations to allow drillers to discharge wastewater directly into rivers and streams from which communities draw their water supplies.

3 - Craft-Turney "Do Not Use" order lifted for some residents, East Texas Matters, 10/12/18

<https://www.easttexasmatters.com/news/local-news/craft-turney-do-not-use-order-lifted-for-some-residents/1520455674>

The do not use order for customers of the Craft-Turney Water Supply has been lifted as of Friday, October 12, for the expanded area only based on sample results received today.

4 – Waco amoeba test results: "exposure likely occurred" at surf resort, San Antonio Express-News, 10/12/18

<https://www.mysanantonio.com/news/houston-texas/texas/article/Waco-amoeba-test-results-exposure-likely-13302907.php>

Test results from the Waco-area water park visited by a New Jersey man who later died from a brain-eating amoeba showed that his "exposure likely occurred" there.

5 - Editorial: Local residents deserve to be heard on WIPP plan, Albuquerque Journal, 10/15/18

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1233239/local-residents-deserve-to-be-heard-on-wipp-plan.html>

Do you measure volume by A.) how big your glass is, or B.) how much is actually in it? At the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, the answer has always been "A." The U.S. Department of Energy is asking New Mexico to switch that to "B."

6 – US eyes military bases for coal, gas exports, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 10/15/18

<https://www.star-telegram.com/news/nation-world/national/article220036810.html>

The Trump administration is considering using West Coast military bases or other federal properties as transit points for shipments of U.S. coal and natural gas to Asia as officials seek to bolster the domestic energy industry and circumvent environmental opposition to fossil fuel exports.

7 – City seeks feedback on proposed plan to combat climate change, San Antonio Express-News, 10/13/18

<https://www.expressnews.com/news/education/article/City-seeks-feedback-on-proposed-plan-to-combat-13305349.php>

San Antonio's Office of Sustainability is seeking feedback on its proposed strategies to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the city as it develops its Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, set to be approved this spring.

8 – New Mexico provisions included in federal water bill, Albuquerque Journal, 10/15/18

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1233371/new-mexico-provisions-included-in-federal-water-bill.html>

Water projects in New Mexico would get a boost as part of a massive bill passed by Congress that seeks to improve the nation's dams and protect against floods and drought.

9 – DOJ experts downplay climate, health links, E&E News, 10/15/18

<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060102505>

Doctors retained by the U.S. government will likely minimize connections between heat-trapping gases and medical ailments at an upcoming climate change trial, court records show.

10 - Revised rules allow increased emissions at resin plants, E&E News, 10/12/18

<https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2018/10/12/stories/1060102473>

EPA will allow significantly higher air toxic emission rates at some resin manufacturing plants under newly amended regulations. The revised rules, set for publication in Monday's Federal Register, will increase the hazardous pollutant emission standards from existing sources in the amino/phenolic resin industry from 1.9 pounds per ton of resin produced to 8.6 pounds, according to an EPA summary.

https://www.theadvocate.com/new_orleans/news/environment/article_14b3e03c-c818-11e8-bbfd-670a220f2e46.html

Elected officials in Louisiana drag feet on new EPA report as news of chemical exposure trickles out to residents

BY DELLA HASSELLE AND NICK REIMANN | dhasselle@theadvocate.com nreimann@theadvocate.com
OCT 14, 2018 - 6:00 PM



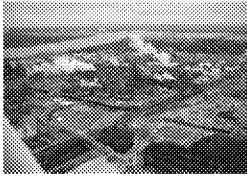
The sun and sky are reflected in the front door to the home where Marcia Llewellyn, 58, lives in Montz, Louisiana on Friday, October 5, 2018.

Buy Now

ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Della Hasselle

It's been 15 years since Marcia Llewellyn left Norco, a community located next to an industrial complex long known for its distinctive odor, and a place that many residents said had become too polluted to live in.



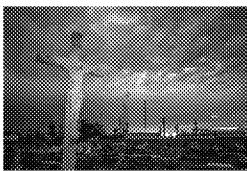
'It was terrible': Shell plant at Norco stirred controversy decades before Clean Air Act allegations

"That's what I always remember about it — the smell," Llewellyn said as she stood inside her home on Union Street in Montz, a sleepy town along River Road on the east bank of St. Charles Parish. "You know the chemicals from the plants there had to be very strong, with a smell like that."

Story Continued Below

This month, Llewellyn was shocked to discover her dead-end street in the quiet neighborhood she calls home might carry even more significant health risks.

According to a recent report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, residents in her census tract face the highest risk of breast or lymphoid cancers of anyplace in the country because of emissions of the carcinogen ethylene oxide. The chemical is produced in large amounts at the Union Carbide Corp. plant across the Mississippi River in Taft.



'I just feel so helpless': In River Parishes, a 2nd possible cancer-causing agent in air, EPA says

After the report came out, a spokeswoman for Dow Chemical Co., which owns Union Carbide, acknowledged that the company is one of the largest producers of ethylene oxide in the country but said it has "safely produced" it in St. Charles Parish since the company took ownership of the plant in 2001.

However, understanding of the dangers associated with the chemical has changed over time, according to the EPA. It was only categorized as a carcinogen in 2016.

Llewellyn, 58, said she wasn't aware of the EPA's latest National Air Toxics Assessment, which came out in August. And, she said, she didn't think much about chemical exposure when deciding on the best place to live with her sisters, nephews and a year-old baby.

"I mean, I had concerns, but they've always been in the back of my mind," she said.



The Union Carbide Plant, near the Holy Rosary Cemetery in St. Charles Parish, photographed Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018. The plant produces ethylene oxide, a chemical the EPA says is carcinogenic to humans in certain amounts, over a lifetime of exposure.

[Buy Now](#)

Advocate staff photo by SCOTT THRELKELD

Indeed, news of cancer risk from the airborne pollutant has been slow to infiltrate many neighborhoods in the River Parishes.

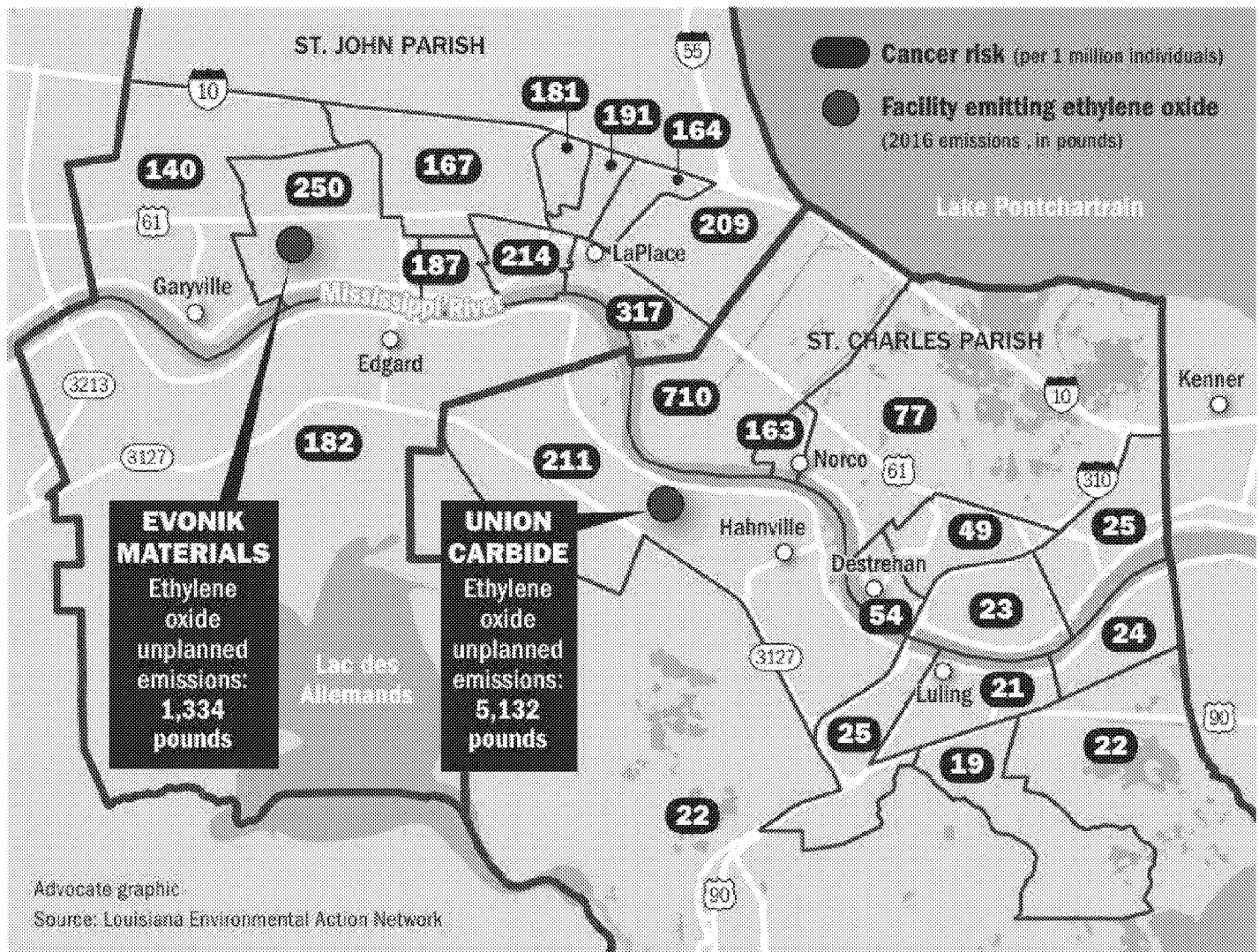
About 10 miles upriver, a small group of activists in St. John the Baptist Parish are more in-the-know about the EPA's latest assessment, which focused on ethylene oxide based on chemical emissions data from 2014.

That's because they mobilized several years ago, when the EPA identified areas around the Denka Performance Elastomer plant in LaPlace as the most at-risk in the U.S. from the "likely carcinogen" chloroprene, a chemical used to make synthetic rubber that has been produced at the plant for decades.

[!\[\]\(529949c2c3dadbaa4e538e8c643454bc_img.jpg\) Download PDF](#)

CANCER RISK IN THE RIVER PARISHES

Some of the highest levels of cancer risk are near large emitters of ethylene oxide. Below shows the estimated cancer risk per 1 million people, by census tract.



Elsewhere, however, many residents are dubious or even fatalistic when presented with the emissions data – an unsurprising response, environmentalists say, for people accustomed to living in the corridor between New Orleans and Baton Rouge that is known for its reliance on the petrochemical industry.

Ambivalent reactions

In areas of St. Charles Parish where the risk is high, many residents seem torn between acknowledging the findings of the air pollution study and defending the chemical companies that employ their friends and family members.

Just a handful of local and state elected officials are starting to question the safety of the air in neighborhoods and schools throughout St. Charles, St. John and Ascension parishes as they dig into the data provided by the EPA study.

Overall, the reaction in the River Parishes stands in stark contrast to the outrage that has erupted in Willowbrook, Illinois, where the Sterigenics International facility produces ethylene oxide, commonly used to sanitize medical equipment, fumigate spices, and make polyester and antifreeze.

There, citizen groups quickly organized, and the political pressure grew so furious that Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner called for the plant to be shut down.

For his part, Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards declined to comment on the EPA study at a press conference earlier this month, saying he had not had a chance to catch up on the issue.

Other elected officials tasked with representing St. Charles and St. John parishes have been equally silent. Of 20 council members, school board members, state representatives and senators contacted about the emissions, only seven responded. All but two said they would have to study the issue further before taking any action.

Environmentalists Wilma Subra of the Louisiana Environmental Action Network and Anne Rolfes of the Louisiana Bucket Brigade called the response “lackluster.”



Union Street in Montz, Louisiana on Friday, October 5, 2018.

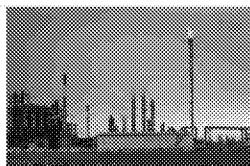
ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

[Buy Now](#)

“Shouldn’t they have rolled up their sleeves and looked into it by now?” Rolfes asked. “And just imagine how it is for those who live across from these facilities. They get no response.”

As for Llewellyn, she believes she shouldn’t have to think about air pollution when choosing a place to live.

“Yes, it bothers me,” she said. “I would like to live in a safe area. You go outside and breathe the air and you might get sick — that doesn’t sit well.”



James Gill: Amoebas, poisonous air, child poverty — odds are stacked against Louisiana brains

‘In crisis mode’

In Louisiana, the Union Carbide Corp. plant is the largest producer of ethylene oxide and has been manufacturing the chemical since the late 1960s.

While the chemical is produced throughout the United States, the highest cancer risk from emissions is across the river from the plant in census tract 601, where Llewellyn lives.



Ray Morgan, 53, of Reserve, La., inhales from his nebulizer which he uses to help with his breathing on Friday, October 5, 2018. He lives less than a mile from Evonik Materials Corp.

[Buy Now](#)

ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

There, scientists say, residents face a cancer risk 700 times greater than the EPA's goal of a 1-in-a-million, and seven times what the agency says is in the "upper limit" of what's acceptable for humans.

While those eye-popping numbers are a surprise for some, they seemed about right to 34-year-old Brad Trepagnier, who has been working at chemical plants since his early 20s.

But the situation is complicated, he said, because the chemical plants drive the economy for the towns most affected by the pollution.

"I've always been at risk, but I guess that's what I get for living close to all these plants," he said. "That's what we choose."

Across the river, Nolan Darensbourg has lived about a mile west of the Union Carbide plant his entire life.

He said he'd be "willing to move" if someone convinces him that ethylene oxide poses a real risk, but he's not yet convinced that his health is in peril.

"If it's proven that it's bringing up cancer and, you know, of course I'm moving," Darensbourg said. "Of course — there's no reason to stay here."

Others say they feel powerless against the industry, and have all but given up trying to fight it.

Nadine Washington can name several friends and neighbors who have been diagnosed with cancer in recent years, and she thinks the pollution had something to do with it.

But she has been in Killona her entire 59 years, in a home she inherited from her grandmother, and can't afford to leave, she said.

"We know they was releasing something that was going to kill us, and one day would have caused some kind of cancer," Washington said. "Ain't nothing we could've did about it. We didn't know how to go about doing anything about it."



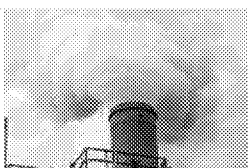
Ray Morgan, 53, of Reserve, La., said he doesn't own pets but he uses fragrant aerosols to help mask the smells emitted from chemical plants located near his home.

[Buy Now](#)

ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER



Federal judge poised to toss lawsuit by St. John residents against chemical company Denka



St. John plaintiffs file amended suit against Denka citing specific health problems

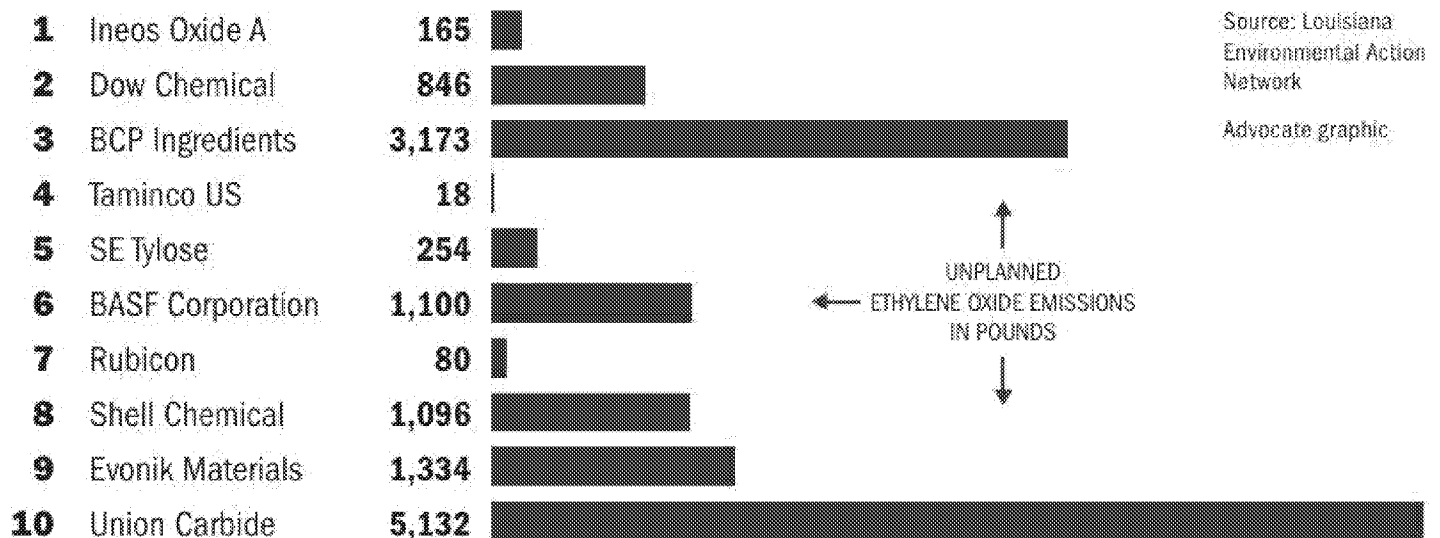
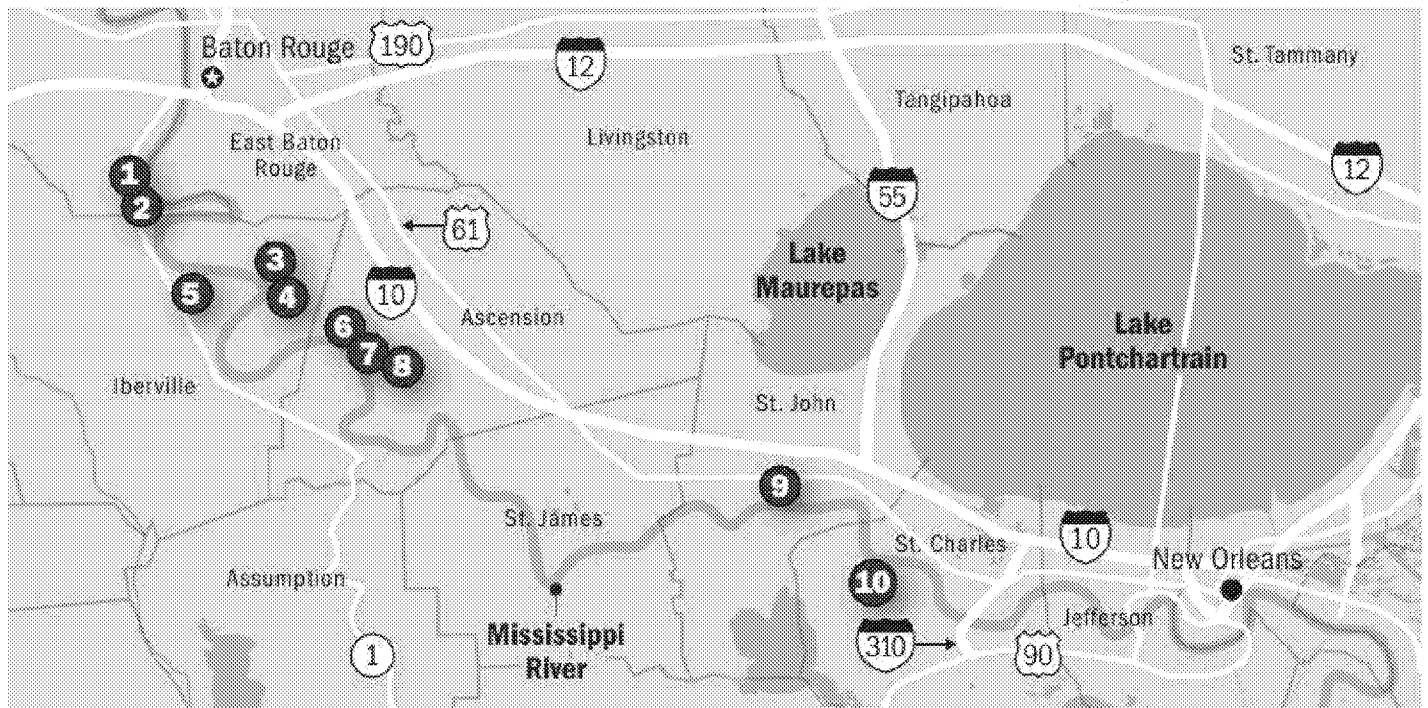
'Overbearing burden'

Although some residents are quick to express concern and even outrage over the ethylene oxide emissions, few said they have made the effort to call their state legislators, congressional representatives or even local council members.

 Download PDF

CHEMICAL CORRIDOR

Ten facilities in the corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans reported emissions of "known carcinogen" ethylene oxide in 2016. Unplanned emissions in pounds, by facility:



In the meantime, Sen. Edward Price, a Democrat from Gonzales, is one of the few state elected officials in Louisiana who have expressed willingness to take action after reading the EPA's report.

Price said last week that he had called on the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to work with the EPA on a future ambient air monitoring program in St. Charles and St. John parishes.

"Anytime you have anything like this there is a concern," Price said. "We have to make sure (the companies) are meeting emissions standards and aren't putting an overbearing burden on these parishes."

But officials with the DEQ say that as of now, they have no set plans to test for air quality. First, they're deferring to the EPA to set a national standard for emissions. In the meantime, said Greg Langley, a spokesman for DEQ, "residents don't need to be panicked" by the risk estimates so far.

"I think our message at this point is that even though this change has been made, it's a paper change," he said. "It's a change in a computation."

Officials with the EPA, who based the recent report on data from the chemical plants themselves, have said they may decide to do some monitoring. But even if they do, that process will take time, because first scientists have to figure out just how much of the chemical is permeating the air.

To achieve that, officials have to develop new monitoring techniques. Traditional air quality monitoring, they said, just isn't sensitive enough.

Based on the studies and evidence, the EPA determined that a very small amount of the chemical — just .003 micrograms per cubic meter — could cause a person to develop cancer if they have constant exposure over a lifetime, or 70 years.

"We just don't have anything to measure these emissions," Langley added. "It's essentially zero. If it's down as low as we want, we can't measure it."



Evonik Materials Corp. in Reserve, La. on Friday, October 5, 2018.

[Buy Now](#)

ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Langley also said that official emissions standards have not been updated since ethylene oxide was reclassified as a carcinogen in 2016, so there is no way to “force” chemical companies to reduce their emissions.

In 2016, Dow's Union Carbide plant deliberately released an estimated 30,700 pounds of ethylene oxide into the air; an estimated unplanned 5,100 pounds of the produced gas also escaped into the air, according to an EPA database. The only U.S. industrial facility releasing more ethylene oxide into the air is in Port Neches, Texas.

A spokeswoman for Dow said their emissions have long been within legal limits, and Langley said the plant has been regulated in Louisiana for the last 20 years.

Most government officials who responded said they hadn't fully had a chance to review the EPA's findings, and so couldn't pass judgment on how they might affect their communities or constituents.

“The EPA report is alarming. That’s what I have to say,” said St. Charles Parish Councilwoman Marilyn Bellock. “I’m assuming we’re going to get together as a council and talk about a plan of action.”

Activists in St. John

To be sure, there are activists who are trying to organize residents in the most affected neighborhoods.



Robert Taylor, 78, walks along the tracks that lie next to Evonik Materials Corp. in Reserve, La. on Friday, October 5, 2018.

[Buy Now](#)

ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

At a recent meeting held just blocks from Evonik Materials Corp. in Reserve, activist Robert Taylor called the EPA’s recent report “devastating.” The St. John Parish plant also produces ethylene oxide.

“For me it’s hard to understand how this could take place,” said Taylor, president of the Concerned Citizens of St. John. “Where is the government? Where are the regulatory people? Where are the agencies that are supposed to be protecting us from these people?”

He added: “It seems to me that they’ve completely abandoned us and that they’re in collusion with the petrochemical plants. They’re not regulating these people. How could this go on?”

Members of the group have long complained about health problems ranging from cancer to rashes and respiratory illnesses, and many were quick to blame the neighboring plants.



Robert Taylor, 78, left, stands with friends on a front porch across from a sugar cane field located less than a mile from Evonik Materials Corp. in Reserve, La. on Friday, October 5, 2018.

Buy Now

ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Their goal, they say, is to create a new group across the River Parishes that will be politically influential enough to field candidates in the 2019 legislative elections.

“The people are very disturbed,” said Shondrell Perilloux, a 40-year-old contractor. “Our government appears to be failing us. Their reactions are not as curious and as emboldened and concerned as the citizens’ are.”

FOLLOW DELLA HASSELLE ON TWITTER, @DELLAHASSELLE.

EPA weighs allowing oil companies to pump wastewater into rivers, streams

James Osborne

Oct. 15, 2018



Wastewater disposal is becoming a bigger problem for oil and gas drillers. A rule of thumb is that for every barrel of oil, four or five barrels of wastewater are produced.

Photo: Brittany Sowacke / Bloomberg

WASHINGTON — For almost as long as there have been oil wells in Texas, drillers have pumped the vast quantities of brackish wastewater that comes up with the oil into underground wells thousands of feet beneath the earth's surface.

But with concern growing that the underlying geology in the Permian Basin and other shale plays are reaching capacity for disposal wells, the Trump administration is examining whether to adjust decades-old federal clean water regulations to allow drillers to discharge wastewater directly into rivers and streams from which communities draw their water supplies

Technically speaking, drillers are allowed to do this in limited circumstances under federal law, but the process of cleaning salt-, heavy metal- and chemical-laden wastewater to the point it would meet state or federal water standards is so costly, it's rarely done, experts say. Now, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is examining whether federal laws regulating wastewater from oil and gas wells should be adjusted.

Unlimited Digital Access for 99¢

Read more articles like this by subscribing to the Houston Chronicle

SUBSCRIBE

"Technology is changing. At some point if your disposal options are limited or it becomes so expensive you're having to truck water to be disposed of several hundred miles away, companies will do it," said Jared Craighead, legal counsel to Texas Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton. "It might not make sense today but maybe in a year or two."

The EPA is consulting with experts and conducting public meetings around the country, toward making a decision next summer, Lee Forsgreen, deputy assistant administrator at EPA's Office of Water, said in Washington Tuesday. "We're very much in a listening mode now," he said.

The primary question facing EPA is whether water standards can be adjusted so oil and gas companies can economically treat wastewater so it can be pumped into the water supply without contaminating drinking water supplies or killing off local wildlife.

In 2016, the EPA banned municipal sewage plants from accepting wastewater associated with hydraulic fracturing after it was discovered that water was sent to in Pennsylvania plants not equipped to properly clean it. In the midst of that state's fracking boom, resident along the Monongahela River in western Pennsylvania were advised to use bottled drinking water.

"It would be so difficult to [treat the wastewater] because there's so much we don't know," said Nichole Saunders, an attorney with the Environmental Defense Fund in Austin. "There's only a handful of research papers. We don't have approved testing methods. The complicating factor here is there's not really the science and data to inform EPA."

In Washington, lobbyists for the oil and wastewater industries are pushing hard to loosen regulations they say go too far. Their primary case to the EPA is that the treated wastewater

could provide a valuable resource for drought-ravaged water supplies in the western United States, with potential uses for agriculture and industry and even drinking water supplies.

“It’s an opportunity that could have some really good benefits, particularly in areas that need water,” said Lee Fuller, executive vice president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America. “At this point all that water is just going back in the ground.”

The Texas oil industry also faces a looming crisis. As the shale drilling boom has grown, so has the problem of what to do with the huge volumes of wastewater. A rule of thumb is that for every barrel of oil, four or five barrels of wastewater are produced.

In earlier times, drillers would pump the water right back into the same field. But they have struggled to do so in shale fields, which have tighter geology than conventional oil fields, forcing operators to send their water to off-site disposal wells, Fuller said.

As drilling activity in the Permian Basin has intensified in recent years, officials at the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates the state’s oil and gas industry, have begun to hear concerns in Upton and Reagan counties in West Texas that pressure in disposal wells building to high levels from from overuse. At the same time, a series of small earthquakes in the area has raised concerns that West Texas could succumb to the same earthquake problems that have plagued oil fields in Oklahoma and North Texas, which scientists have linked to underground wastewater disposal.

“Because of over-pressurization and concerns about seismicity we are limited where we can permit injection wells,” in the Permian Basin, said Craighead, the Railroad Commission official.

Treating wastewater and then pumping it into rivers or selling it to farmers to irrigate fields would provide a much needed alternative. For now, the technology still can’t treat drilling wastewater economically, but that could change soon. In El Paso, for example, the city’s water utility is running a desalinization plant to treat brackish water with a salt content similar to oil wastewater to produce up to 27.5 million gallons of fresh water daily.

“What will really reduce the timeline is if [the EPA] actually comes up with discharge standards and give people an incentive to develop these technologies,” said Leonard Levine, technical director at Gulf Coast Authority, a quasi-governmental agency that operates wastewater treatment plants around Houston and West Texas. “Never underestimate the ability of the oil and gas industry to develop technology quickly.”

Over the next six months, oil companies will push to make their case to an EPA that under President Donald Trump has proved friendly to the oil and gas sector. Last month, the EPA proposed loosening Obama-era regulations around methane leaks from pipelines and drilling sites. The Department of Interior is also in the process of rewriting safety standards for offshore drilling, put in place following the 2010 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico.

“If this study is not done correctly and they don’t put the proper treatments in place it would be a major step backward,” said Andrew Grinberg, special projects manager with the environmental group Clean Water Action. “The concern that it is window dressing that will give them cover to weaken the rules.”

At the Railroad Commission, staff are looking into applying to the federal government for authority to administer wastewater discharge permits, something now done by the EPA. It would entail developing testing protocols and hiring more staff, something likely to catch the attention of budget hawks in Austin, but doing so would allow the state government to control the flow of water permits, taking the EPA out of the loop.

“We’re still in the very early stages, but this could be a good alternative,” Craighead said. “Almost every Permian operator has gotten more interested in this.”

james.osborne@chron.com

Twitter: @osborneja

©2018 Hearst

Local News

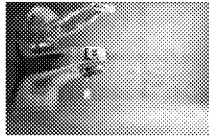
Craft-Turney "Do Not Use" order lifted for some residents

By:

Sue Necessary (<https://www.easttexasmatters.com/meet-the-team/sue-necessary/858113197>)

✉ (<mailto:snecessary@easttexasmatters.com>)

Updated: Oct 12, 2018 10:44 PM CDT



JACKSONVILLE, Texas (KETK) - The do not use order for customers of the Craft-Turney Water Supply has been lifted as of Friday, October 12, for the expanded area only based on sample results received today.

The TCEQ says the "Do Not Use Order" issued can be rescinded for normal household use and consumption for all customers except the 11 locations located near the vicinity of the backflow incident.

These connections will be notified directly to remain under the DO NOT USE ORDER, except for flushing toilets.



Customers may notice a chlorine smell due to increased levels of chlorine.

The TCEQ collected samples from Craft-Turney's public water supply distribution system on October 10 that were analyzed for methylene bis-thiocyanate by the EPA's laboratory in Houston. The chemical was not detected in any of the samples, and previous sample results for the expanded area indicated that the chlorothalonil was below detectable levels.

On October 11, the TCEQ also collected additional samples from the limited area of the system, the 11 connections, where results from samples collected on Oct. 7, 2018, indicated that the chlorothalonil was still present. These samples are currently being analyzed. Once these results are received, a determination can be made as to whether the do not use order can be lifted for this limited area of the system.

The Craft-Turney Water Supply Corporation notified the TCEQ of a backflow incident impacting a small portion of the system on October 3.

TCEQ said it suspects a fungicide entered the water supply. The water utility has indicated that this portion of the system has been isolated from the distribution system. The do not use order was initially issued to customers of this portion of the distribution system but was

expanded to customers in the general vicinity of these connections as a precaution.

The TCEQ continues to investigate this incident.

The TCEQ has delivered a total of 58 pallets of bottled water to the utility for use by customers affected by the order. The water is available at the Craft-Turney office at 505 Loop 456 in Jacksonville.

The contractor hired by the TCEQ will begin demobilizing the trailer with 16 shower stalls currently at Central Baptist Church, 1909 E. Rusk St., Jacksonville on Saturday. However, the First United Methodist Church-Jacksonville at 1031 TX-456 Loop will continue to make its facilities available for bathing and washing dishes between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

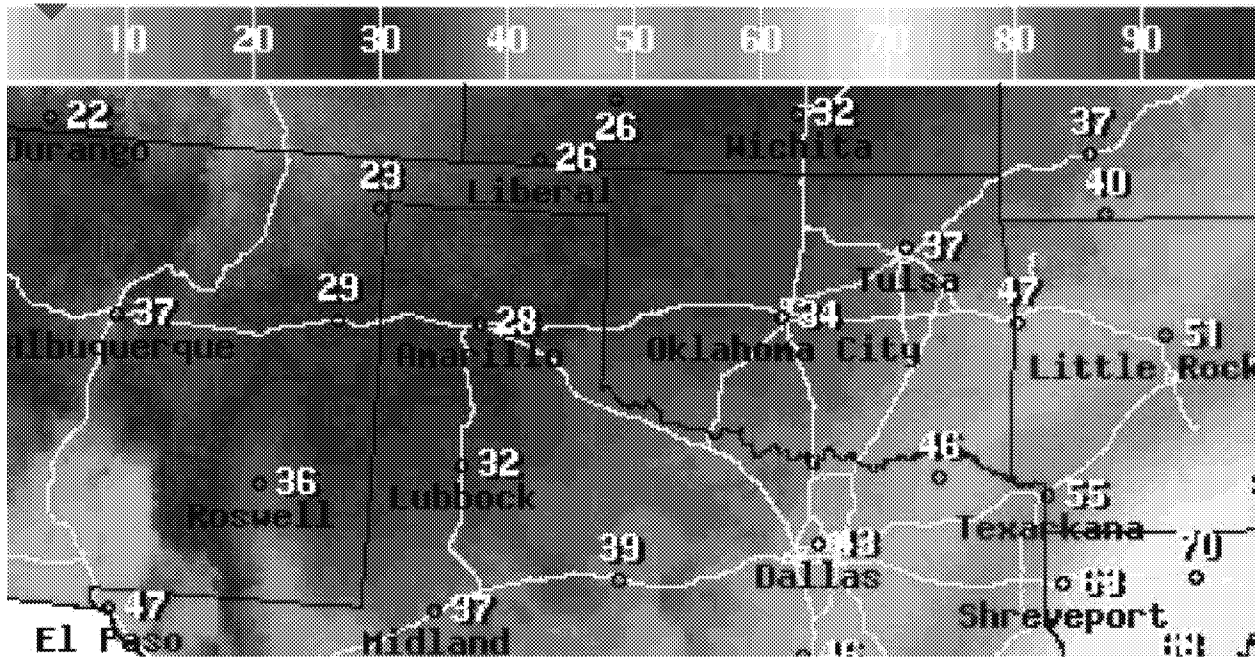
The TCEQ has also coordinated with the Texas Department of State Health Services, which is available to take calls regarding health concerns. Impacted residents can call DSHS, Dr. Heidi Bojes, Phd., at 512-776-6351, during regular business hours Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., local Cherokee County Health Department, Grace Mikhail, at 903-721-4402 or they can reach the Texas Poison Center Network 24 hours per day at 1-800-222-1222. Residents may also contact TCEQ's Tyler office at 903-535-5100 if they have any questions related to this incident.

More Headlines

- **2 people dead following early morning crash on Interstate 20**
- **Severe Weather Warnings in East Texas**
- **SUNDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL: Chiefs vs Pats on KETK**

Copyright 2018 Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

Text 'NEWS' to 77453 for Alerts



Frigid winds, rain rush into S.A. area

Texas toddler's birthday party erupts in gunfire, 4 dead

Remains of 3rd victim from Monday's flooding discovered

SAPD officer struck by vehicle while directing traffic

Man shot in head while outside a downtown-area home



<https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/texas/article/Waco-amoeba-test-results-exposure-likely-13302907.php>

Waco amoeba test results: "exposure likely occurred" at surf resort

By Emily Foxhall Updated 6:08 pm CDT, Friday, October 12, 2018



[Advertising](#) [Privacy Notice](#) [Your California Privacy Rights](#)

[Interest Based Ads](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Contact Us](#)



IMAGE 1 OF 39

Some riders on the Royal Flush waterslides at BSR Cable Park in Waco spin and turn and flip Louganis-like while in mid-air. Water quality test results came back this week.

>>Brain-eating amoebas,
... more

Test results from the Waco-area water park visited by a New Jersey man who later died from a brain-eating amoeba showed that his "exposure likely occurred" there.

The results, released Friday, said the amoeba was found in the water of one of the Barefoot Ski Ranch's four attractions, known as the BSR Cable Park, but conditions in the other features were described as "favorable" for the amoeba's growth.

Recommended Video



Local health officials said it remains possible that the amoeba could also have been present in the surf portion of the park on Sept. 1. Officials collected test

his visit there, the company said: "No one can say for sure."

BSR, located near Waco, is one of two Texas surf parks in Texas. The other, in Austin, is strictly regulated under state law. BSR was not inspected by local health officials, who did not elaborate on why. Test results show "a treatment failure" in the BSR water, according to the report.

GOOD QUESTION: A man caught a brain-eating amoeba. Why did Waco surf park take so long to close?

Specifically, the report states that water tested was cloudy, contained organisms associated with fecal matter and lacked enough chlorine to disinfect the water — providing for an environment in which, when the water was warm, the the brain-eating amoeba could grow. There were also other kinds of amoeba present.

In a statement posted on the BSR Cable Park Facebook page on Friday, the company wrote: "BSR SURF RESORT, Lazy River & Royal Flush slide WATER TESTS COME BACK CLEAN." It did not mention that the amoeba was found in the cable park.

The CDC, along with the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District, conducted the tests for the amoeba, called *Naegleria fowleri*. Both agencies plan to continue to consult with the company before it reopens the surf pool, lazy river or Royal Flush, which is a series of giant slides.

Though the cable park is where the brain-eating amoeba was found, the report said it would be allowed to stay open because the risk there was considered no worse than other fresh water. The BSR water source is well water

The amoeba is commonly found in fresh water sources such as lakes, but hardly ever causes infection. When people do contract the amoeba, they are almost certain to die.

In its statement, the company said it planned to hire an out-of-state business "to ir

x

[Advertising](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

[Your California Privacy Rights](#)

[Interest Based Ads](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Contact Us](#)

country today, but many more will be built. Our goal is to set the highest standard for these facilities. Going forward, BSR Surf Resort will have the cleanest water anywhere in the United States."

Read the full report below.

To print the document, click the "Original Document" link to open the original PDF. At this time it is not possible to print the document with annotations.

City seeks feedback on proposed plan to combat climate change

Liz Teitz

Oct. 13, 2018



A view of downtown from the northside of San Antonio on Friday, Aug. 12, 2016. The ozone levels in San Antonio's statistics causes 52 premature deaths per year according to a new public health study by New York University and the American Thoracic Society. (Kin Man Hui/San Antonio Express-News)

San Antonio's Office of Sustainability is seeking feedback on its proposed strategies to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the city as it develops its Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, set to be approved this spring.

Low turnout at an open house on Saturday highlighted one of the ongoing challenges: improving engagement and interest in a plan that needs residents to take their own actions to be effective.

The city expects to have a draft plan available for public comment in January and to finalize the plan by March. The Office of Sustainability will host 10 open houses to discuss the plan

and collect feedback on the proposals this month, a series that started Saturday at Young Women's Leadership Academy.

The steering committee developing the plan has identified buildings and transportation as the largest factors to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

More Information

Upcoming Open Houses

Wednesday, Oct. 17: Schaefer Library, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 18: Eco Centro: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 23: Ozuna Library Palo Alto College, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 25: Mission Library, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 29: John Igo Library, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 30: SA Food Bank, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 2: Urban Ecology Center, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 3: Bazan Library, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 8: NE Service Center, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

More information is available at SAClimateReady.org

Forty-seven percent of the city's carbon emissions come from energy use in buildings, UTSA professor and committee member Lindsay Ratcliffe said. Thirty-eight percent of emissions are tied to transportation, due in part to the city's sprawl and reliance on cars, she said.

Cutting those emissions requires relying less on fossil fuels, committee co-chair Femi Osidele said.

Strategies for cutting emissions from buildings range from implementing building codes to create structures that require less energy, to offering rebate programs for retrofitting spaces to use more efficient appliances.

By cutting the demand for electricity, CPS Energy can provide a larger percentage of power from renewable sources and natural gas, decreasing their reliance on coal, CPS' Carla De La Chapa said.

The company's Flexible Path also outlines a plan to reach 50 percent of power generated by renewable energy sources by 2040, with a decrease in the use of coal and natural gas, she said.

Strategies proposed to lower transportation emissions include increasing the charging infrastructure for electric cars to make them more appealing to buyers, and the possible implementation of a group purchasing program to make those vehicles less expensive.

Public transportation currently makes up only one percent of overall transportation-related emissions, with more than half coming from private transit passenger vehicles.

The plan will focus on reducing single-occupancy vehicle use, which could include making neighborhoods more walkable and centered around regional transit hubs, with public transportation between the hubs, Ratcliffe said.

Saturday's session attracted few attendees from outside the committee, most of whom were already interested in the issue.

"I'm really passionate about sustainability and climate change," said Estella Cota-Treviño.

She was impressed by the strategies provided, but worried that the potential costs of the changes could deter residents from supporting the plan, if not addressed.

Bill Sweet, a retired scientist, called the strategies "barely adequate," but a small step in the right direction.

"I care about my grandchildren, and other people's grandchildren," he said, and if climate change is not addressed, "they will have a horrible end of their lives."

While the effects of reduction on a city level may be small when considered on a global scale, "everybody has to do their tiny little piece, and every city has to do their little piece," Sweet said.

City Council member Ana Sandoval pointed to the increased intensity of storms and the rising frequency of flooding fueled by climate change as ways San Antonians are affected, whether they realize it or attribute that to fossil fuel usage.

She encouraged the committee to find events throughout the city to attend, to reach people who aren't likely to seek out an Open House to learn about the plan.

The city "has so much potential for greenhouse gas savings," she said. "The gains are to be had here."

LTeitz@express-news.net | @LizTeitz

©2018 Hearst

Delivery alert

There may be an issue with the delivery of your newspaper. This alert will expire at NaN. [Click here for more info.](#)

Editorials

Editorial: Local residents deserve to be heard on WIPP plan

By Albuquerque Journal Editorial Board

Monday, October 15th, 2018 at 12:05am

Do you measure volume by A.) how big your glass is, or B.) how much is actually in it?

At the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, the answer has always been “A.” The U.S. Department of Energy is asking New Mexico to switch that to “B.”

That’s because WIPP, a series of underground salt caverns that has housed radioactive waste since 1999, is already more than half full using the current measurement method, which calculates the amount using the outermost containers, which may have smaller containers of waste within them. Switching to calculating volume using the innermost containers would mean WIPP is one-third full.

WIPP is capped at 6.2 million cubic feet of transuranic waste under the 1992 federal Land Withdrawal Act that authorized it. DOE argues that the current system means a lot of the volume counted toward the limit is just air.

Weigh in on WIPP

What: NMED public hearing on request to modify permit

When: 9 a.m. Oct. 23

Where: Room 153, New Mexico State University at Carlsbad, 1500 University Drive

And so it is right that the New Mexicans who live closest to WIPP will have the opportunity to air their concerns about the change later this month. Rep. Cathrynn Brown, R-Carlsbad, has said a hearing is unnecessary, but, if there has to be one, it should be in Carlsbad. Don Hancock, director of the Nuclear Waste Program at the Albuquerque-based Southwest Research and Information Center and a longtime WIPP critic, has said any “technical testimony should be in Santa Fe” and maintains that DOE and the state Environment Department are aiming to “fast-track” the request.

Bigger concerns than whether trapped air counts as waste are the proposed mission creep that could bring the higher-level radioactive waste sitting around the nation to WIPP, and the fact that temporary storage of that higher-level waste at WIPP or the proposed Holtec interim storage facility nearby could become indefinite because the federal government has allowed Nevada’s Yucca Mountain to remain a \$15 billion empty parking garage.

Nevertheless, the people who live near, and work in and around, WIPP deserve to be heard, and to have decision makers come to their community and explain, face to face, exactly what the changes mean.

This editorial first appeared in the Albuquerque Journal. It was written by members of the editorial board and is unsigned as it represents the opinion of the newspaper rather than the writers.

Pro Football

Brady, Patriots top Chiefs for wild 43-40 win

Weekend Sports in Brief



NATIONAL

APNewsBreak: US eyes military bases for coal, gas exports

BY MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

October 15, 2018 08:33 AM
Updated 14 minutes ago

BILLINGS, MONT. — The Trump administration is considering using West Coast military bases or other federal properties as transit points for shipments of U.S. coal and natural gas to Asia as officials seek to bolster the domestic energy industry and circumvent environmental opposition to fossil fuel exports, according to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and two Republican lawmakers.

By continuing to use this site, you give your consent to our use of cookies for analytics, personalization and ads. [Read more](#)

The proposal would advance the administration's agenda of establishing American "energy dominance" on the world stage and underscores a willingness to intervene in markets to make that happen. It's tantamount to an end-run around West Coast officials who have rejected private-sector efforts to build new coal ports in their states.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Zinke cast the proposal as a matter of national security to ensure U.S. allies have access to affordable fuels. The Trump administration also has cited national security as justification for keeping domestic coal-burning power plants online to prevent disruptions of electricity supplies.

It's unclear which sites are under consideration other than one in Alaska. Experts said the possibilities are constrained by the need for a deep water port.

Zinke said the administration is interested in partnering with private entities to ship coal or liquefied natural gas through naval installations or other federal facilities. He added it's still early in the process.

"I respect the state of Washington and Oregon and California," Zinke said. "But also, it's in our interest for national security and our allies to make sure that they have access to affordable energy commodities."

Accomplishing that, he said, may require the use of "some of our naval facilities, some of our federal facilities on the West Coast."

Zinke specified only one site that could serve as an export hub, for natural gas: the former Adak Naval Air Facility in Alaska's Aleutian Islands, which he suggested could receive fuel by barge from the North Slope. The base closed in 1997 and has been largely abandoned. Roughly 300 people live in the town of Adak, the westernmost community in the U.S.

Zinke did not reveal government properties that could serve as potential coal ports.

Exports have been held up as a lifeline for struggling domestic coal miners since demand for the fuel started to wane a decade ago, when many power plants switched to cheaper, cleaner fuels. The West Coast offers the most economical route for shipments to Asia because of its relative proximity to the largest coal-producing region in the U.S.: the Powder River Basin, which straddles the Montana-Wyoming border.

By continuing to use this site, you give your consent to our use of cookies for analytics, personalization and ads. [Read r](#)

Any export site would need access to deep waters to accommodate large ships and enough land to store fuel awaiting shipment. Few such locations can be found on the West Coast, said Joe Aldina, a coal industry analyst with S&P Global Platts Analytics.

With the U.S. coal export market booming in recent months, Aldina said any new port established by the government would quickly fill with coal for shipment overseas. Yet with demand expected to fall over the long-term, particularly in Europe, the current high prices for coal are expected to drop.

Aldina expressed skepticism that government intervention could make much difference.

"Like everything else the Trump administration has tried to do, it's a long shot whether some of these things will work, and it's questionable whether they will really help the market," he said, adding prices and fuel quality are the main drivers of coal markets, not government policies.

Resistance to exports — rooted in worries about air pollution, climate change and rail safety — and changing market conditions have resulted in six proposed coal ports in Washington and Oregon being rejected or shelved. A \$680 million project in Longview, Washington, was denied a key permit last year by state regulators who said it would increase greenhouse gas emissions and cause "significant and unavoidable harm to the environment."

That's brought a backlash from elected officials in coal-producing states, who have blasted Washington Gov. Jay Inslee in particular. They argue the rejection of the Longview port, sponsored by Utah-based Lighthouse Resources, violated the commerce clause in the Constitution that says only Congress has the power to regulate international and interstate trade.

Montana, Wyoming and four other states joined Lighthouse Resources in a lawsuit challenging the rejection of the company's Millennium Bulk Terminals port, which could handle up to 48.5 million tons (44 million metric tons) of coal a year.

Rep. Liz Cheney, a Wyoming Republican, said she's spoken with Zinke and U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry about using federal facilities to circumvent opposition to proposed ports.

"That might be, for example, retired military facilities or other places where we would be able to use those for exports — frankly, to get around some of the unreasonable obstacles that have been thrown up," Cheney said.

By continuing to use this site, you give your consent to our use of cookies for analytics, personalization and ads. [Read r](#)

Prior to joining Trump's cabinet, Zinke was a Montana congressman and Perry was governor of Texas. Both states are among the United States' top coal producers.

Zinke said Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross also was involved in the proposal.

Commerce Department officials said in a statement that the agency was working with the Interior and Energy Departments "to advance the Administration's export agenda, and this is one such effort."

Energy Department officials declined comment.

Republican U.S. Sen. Steve Daines of Montana said Zinke was looking at "all possibilities" for export terminals, including West Coast military installations.

"As a Montanan, he's looking for ways here to help these Rocky Mountain states like Montana and Wyoming get access to Asian markets," Daines said.

Coal exports to Asia more than doubled in 2017, according to the Energy Information Administration. The rise continued in the first half of 2018 with almost 23 million tons (21 million metric tons) of U.S. coal exported to Asian nations through June. South Korea, Japan and China were among the biggest recipients.

Despite those increases, the U.S. holds only a small share of the more than 1 billion tons (907 million metric tons) of coal shipped annually by sea. Clark Williams-Derry with the Sightline Institute, a left-leaning think tank based in Seattle, said there's little chance of that changing in the long-term.

"All the forces are lining up for the time being, making U.S. coal profitable, but fundamentally we're in no position to dominate the Pacific Rim coal markets," Williams-Derry said. "We're bit players on the global stage."

 **COMMENTS** 

By continuing to use this site, you give your consent to our use of cookies for analytics, personalization and ads. [Read r](#)

Delivery alert

There may be an issue with the delivery of your newspaper. This alert will expire at NaN. [Click here for more info.](#)

New Mexico provisions included in federal water bill

By Associated Press

Monday, October 15th, 2018 at 6:35am

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Water projects in New Mexico would get a boost as part of a massive bill passed by Congress that seeks to improve the nation's dams and protect against floods and drought.

The bill, if signed by President Donald Trump, would authorize more than \$6 billion in spending over 10 years for projects nationwide. It also sets up a framework to increase local input and improve transparency for large projects run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

U.S. Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich say the Army Corps of Engineers also would be granted more flexibility to manage the Rio Grande to address drought.

Another provision directs the National Academies of Science to conduct a comprehensive study of the Rio Grande Basin to identify opportunities for conservation, water storage and ecosystem benefits.

Pro Football

Brady, Patriots top Chiefs for wild 43-40 win

Weekend Sports in Brief

ICYMI in NFL Week 6: Mark your calendar for Brady-Mahomes II

Roller-coaster Redskins in search for consistency

Same ending: Steelers stun Bengals 28-21 on AB's late TD

[MORE](#)

[HOME](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Support local journalism

AlbuquerqueJournal

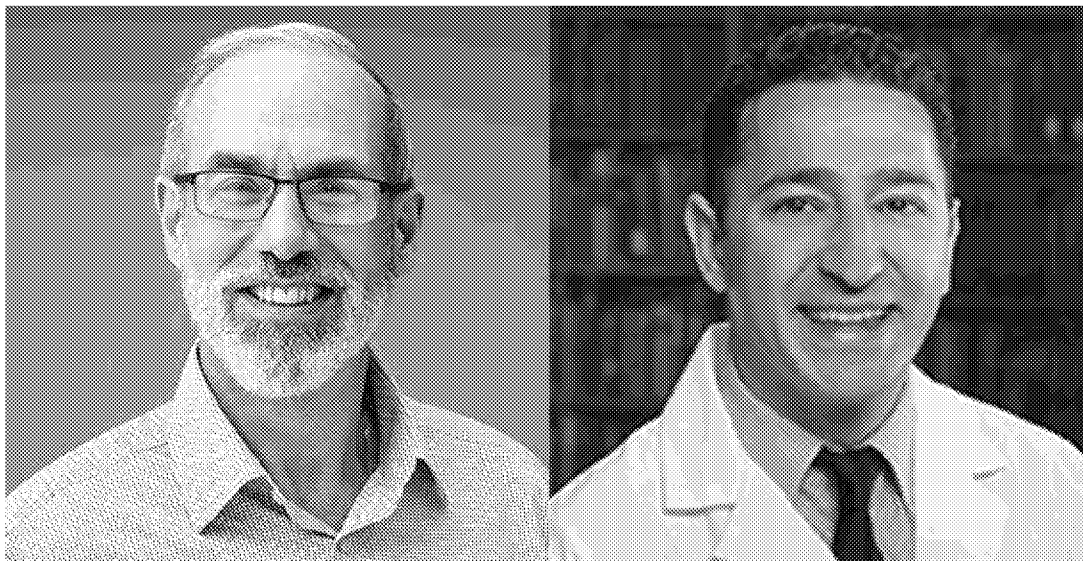
Support local journalism

COURTS

DOJ experts downplay climate, health links

Benjamin Hulac, E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, October 15, 2018



Government lawyers plan to call two medical doctors as expert witnesses in an upcoming trial on climate change. Drs. Norman Klein (left) and Arthur Partikian, New York University Langone Medical Center (Kline); Keck Medicine of the University of Southern California (Partikian)

Doctors retained by the U.S. government will likely minimize connections between heat-trapping gases and medical ailments at an upcoming climate change trial, court records show.

The case, *Juliana v. United States*, arose when a group of 21 young citizens sued the government in 2015, accusing it of upending their constitutionally protected rights to live in a safe climate and endangering natural resources held under public trust protections.

Several of the plaintiffs have asthma, allergies or both, and they say climate change aggravates their symptoms.

CONTINUING COVERAGE

CLIMATE IN THE COURTS: **JULIANA** V. **UNITED STATES**

Twenty-one young Americans are suing the government over climate change. [Click here](#) to view the continuing coverage.

But in written statements filed with the court, doctors [Norman Klein](#) and [Arthur Partikian](#) have questioned the links between health issues and climate change. Other factors, including diet, lifestyle choices, "excessive time" inside, and use of painkillers and antibiotics, could be to blame for plaintiffs' health concerns, said Klein, a professor at New York University's Langone Medical Center.

It's part of the government's broader strategy in *Juliana* of raising doubt about the connections between the harms alleged by the youth plaintiffs and climate change ([Climatewire](#), Oct. 12).

Testimony from scientific experts will fill a significant portion of the trial, which kicks off Oct. 29 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon and could stretch into next year unless a higher court intervenes.

Government lawyers asked the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday to halt discovery in the case and push back the trial start date ([E&E News PM](#), Oct. 12).

The plaintiffs submitted reports from dozens of their expert witnesses in June, and the government has hired and paid at least eight experts, including Klein and Partikian, to shore up its case.

Klein singled out one plaintiff, Alex Loznak, 21, of Oakland, Ore., who has allergies and asthma — conditions that Loznak says climate change exacerbates.

"To substantiate these allegations, a medical professional should review medical records, examine Alex, and explore alternative explanations" beyond the government's actions, Klein said.

"Asthma, like many medical conditions, is multi factorial," Klein said. "Genetics plays an even larger role than does environment."

Without such records, he said, "I see no reliable basis" to substantiate the idea that "Alex's specific allergies and asthma will worsen as climate change caused by [the government] worsen."

Partikian, a medical school professor at the University of Southern California, also would not affirm without medical records that climate change was related to health concerns — including headaches, allergies, asthma, infections and "excessive heat."

The Justice Department directed Klein and Partikian to review a report by Susan Pacheco and Jerome Paulson, two medical doctors the plaintiffs retained. In it, Pacheco and Paulson concluded that climate change is probably already harming children's health.

"We conclude that there is abundant evidence, both in the literature and from our clinical experience, that the health of children is already being adversely impacted as a result of climate change and air pollution," they wrote.

Partikian did not disagree that the plaintiffs' ailments are "potentially associated with climate change" but stopped short of directly connecting them to human-made warming.

Studies and reports like Pacheco and Paulson's do not convincingly and "independently" bind "specific health effects" to climate change and its repercussions, he said.

Pacheco and Paulson said they believe climate change and air pollution are "going under-diagnosed" as negative health risks to kids.

"We have never before had entire generations of children growing up in an environment so altered and degraded by climate change and air pollution," their report reads. "In our expert opinion, the severity and scope of the harm to children's health will continue to increase in coming years unless the federal government responds to the threats posed by climate change and air pollution."

The government is scheduled to turn over its exhibit list for the trial today.

Twitter: [@benhulac](#) | Email: bhulac@eenews.net

Advertisement

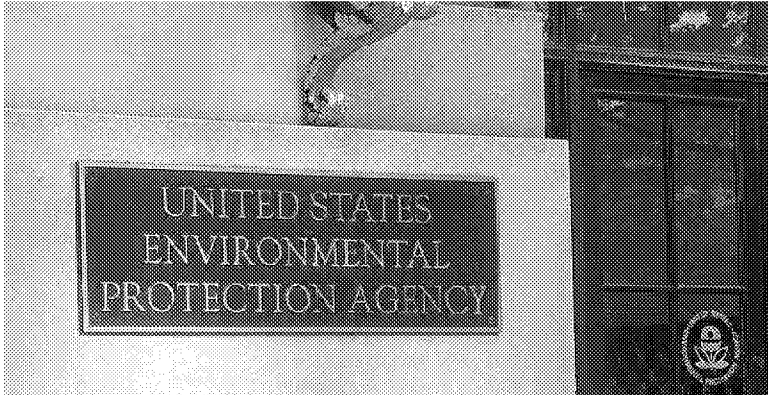


The essential news for energy & environment professionals

© 1996-2018 Environment & Energy Publishing, LLC [Privacy and Data Practices Policy](#) [Site Map](#) [Contact Us](#)

Revised rules allow increased emissions at resin plants

Sean Reilly, E&E News reporter
Published: Friday, October 12, 2018



EPA headquarters in Washington. EPA/Flickr

EPA will allow significantly higher air toxic emission rates at some resin manufacturing plants under newly amended regulations.

The **revised rules**, set for publication in Monday's *Federal Register*, will increase the hazardous pollutant emission standards from existing sources in the amino/phenolic resin industry from 1.9 pounds per ton of resin produced to 8.6 pounds, according to an EPA summary.

The higher rate applies to emissions from what are called "back-end continuous process vents." Such resins are used in making plywood, wood furniture and adhesives; their toxic releases include formaldehyde, xylene and toluene.

EPA had issued the original regulations in 2000 and initially amended them in 2014 following a legally required review. The latest round of changes follows administrative reconsideration requests from Georgia-Pacific LLC, the Sierra Club and Tembec BTL SR Inc., which the rule says is now Rayonier Advanced Materials Inc. EPA has since determined that the data used in setting the 2014 emissions limits did not include all hazardous pollutants, therefore affecting the average of the best-performing sources, the summary said.

The new amendments will also extend the compliance date for the revised emission standards by a year and revise storage vessel requirements under some circumstances. EPA forecasts that 11 to 16 sources will be affected by at least one of the changes, which take effect immediately upon publication in the *Register*.